GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1717
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001
HOLIDAYS IN COURTS
SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether judicial fraternity in India gets more holidays than any other Government Department;

(b) if so, the number of holidays enjoyed by judicial officers vis a vis Government officials;

(c)if so, the number of holidays observe in High Courts and the Supreme Court in a year;

(d) whether former Chief Justice of India ruled that High Courts should function for at least 210 days a year; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in view of the mounting arrears of cases pending for disposal? .

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) ,

(a)to (d) : The Government offices having five working days per week, enjoy seventeen Gazetted holiday and two restricted holidays in a year. The Estimates Committee of the 8th Lok Sabha had desired a review of the working days in the Supreme Court/ High courts. The examination revealed that all High Courts werenormally having 210 working days in year. The working days/vacations of the subordinate Courts in the States are regulated by the concerned High Courts.The question of working days was further examined at different intervals. The matter was also referred to the former Chief Justice of India on 25.6.86. The Chief Justice of India informed that the Supreme Court was already working for 220 days but the full Court had decided to add two more working days.The views of the Chief Justice of India were communicated to the High Courts. Most of the Chief Justices were of the view that 210 working days were alright and no change was called for as Judges put in extra work in their chambers or at their residence. This was also resolved in the Chief Justices` Conference held in 1987. The Department of Justice has recently requested all High Courts and State Governments to re-examine the annual vacations and working da~s in High Courts.

(e) Various steps have been taken by the Government to speed up the disposal of mounting arrears of cases. These include filling up of vacancies of judgest strengthening of judicial infrastructure construction of courtrooms and residences of judges etc simplification of rules and procedures on. the basis of advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs.502.90 crore for creation Fast Track Courts- for expeditious disposal of involving undertrials on priority.